



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
THUNDERBIRD BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB  
20199 N. 78<sup>TH</sup> PLACE  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009**

**MINUTES**

- PRESENT:** Robert Frost, Chair  
Jeanne Alspaugh, Vice Chair  
John Faramelli, Commissioner (departed at 7:00 p.m.)  
Ron King, Commissioner  
Stan Koczka, Commissioner
- ABSENT:** James Duchene, Commissioner  
Harry Schlegelmilch, Commissioner
- STAFF:** Tim Barnard, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Bryan Bundy, Senior Budget Analyst  
Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Director  
Don Davis, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Terry Erickson, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Jeff Fritsch, Maintenance Worker III  
Sandy Hlebaen, Landscape Contract Coordinator  
Eric Ibsen, Maintenance Worker III  
Hugh McGill, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Bob McNair, Sr., McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Recreation Coordinator  
William Murphy, Executive Director of Community Services  
Lorelei Oien, Admin Secretary  
David Pratt, Irrigation Systems Coordinator  
Reed Pryor, Parks and Recreation Manager  
Ken Shoup, Aquatic Maintenance Coordinator
- GUESTS:** Donna Ropp, Director, Desert Center at Pinnacle Peak

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above, noting the presence of a quorum.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Frost called for a moment of silence.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- **Regular Meeting of September 16, 2009.**

**COMMISSIONER KOCZKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 REGULAR MEETING. VICE-CHAIR ALSPAUGH SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).**

**5. NAMING OF THE DESERT GARDEN AT LA MIRADA PARK IN HONOR OF FLORENCE NELSON**

**Donna Ropp, Director of the Desert Center at Pinnacle Peak will present a request to the commission asking that the garden be named after Florence Nelson. Jerry and Florence Nelson donated part of the land that is now La Mirada Park. Mrs. Nelson has been involved with educating local school children on becoming stewards of the desert for over thirty years. If the Commission approves, a plaque honoring Mrs. Nelson will be installed in the garden area. The plaque will be paid for by the Desert Center.**

Ms. Ropp requested that the La Mirada Park Desert Garden be named after Florence Nelson, who recently passed away. Florence Nelson taught desert appreciation and survival to Valley schoolchildren for over forty years. Jerry and Florence Nelson donated 13 of the 26 acres of the La Mirada parcel as a City park. An agreement was made to use one room and part of the desert as the location of the Desert Center from October through April. Florence Nelson had four ramadas built, constructed trails and planted succulents in the garden. The Desert Center is celebrating its tenth year of existence at La Mirada. Its mission is to educate children about the Sonoran Desert, and foster the understanding of, and empathy with the ecosystem, to ensure gentle and thoughtful management. The attitudes of this and future generations towards the desert will have more to do with its survival than any other factor. Stewardship will follow if a child's curiosity and respect for the desert is ignited.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner King, Ms. Cameron explained that the decision for this level of sponsorship rests with the Commission, not the Council. Commissioner King expressed his support for the memorial, since without Florence Nelson, there would be no Desert Center.

Commissioner Koczka inquired whether any similar memorials have been set up in other City parks. Ms. Cameron noted that the City has several small-scale memorials similar in

size. The City has a more formal process in place for larger scale memorials. She noted that the Desert Center would be incurring the cost to build the memorial.

**COMMISSIONER FARAMELLI MOVED TO APPROVE NAMING THE LA MIRADA PARK DESERT GARDEN IN HONOR OF FLORENCE NELSON. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).**

**6. TEMPORARY OFF LEASH AREA (OLA) AT GRAYHAWK COMMUNITY PARK**

**Tim Barnard, Parks and Recreation Manager, and Elaine Mercado, Project Manager, will provide an update and request commission input and/or concurrence on a proposed temporary off leash area at Grayhawk Community Park. This item is in response to Commission direction given at the December 3, 2008, meeting in which Chairman Frost “moved to direct staff to develop an option for a temporary off leash area at Grayhawk Park, outside the ball fields.”**

Mr. Barnard asked the Commission to provide direction on a proposed location for a temporary off leash area (OLA) at Grayhawk Park. The park has been completed, and will open on October 16. Due to costs, the City was not able to include a planned OLA as part of Phase I. Phase II would include a permanent OLA along with a community center, but that phase is currently un-funded. In December, the Commission directed Staff to return with an option for a temporary OLA. Staff proposes that the best location for such a facility would be the undeveloped northeast corner of the park site. It is not adjacent to any residential area, and must be kept in a natural desert state since it is a major drainage area. The location also has good access to the greenbelt and to parking.

The City currently does not have the money to fund this project, but local residents and businesses are working to generate the necessary funding. The project will be two acres in size, and will feature two control gates, a drinking fountain and possibly benches. The City is partnering with residents to help maintain the area, and continues to raise funding for maintenance until a permanent OLA can be built. While the project has many details to be worked out, Staff requests Commission approval of the OLA site.

In response to an inquiry from Chair Frost, Mr. Barnard explained that two gates are required to mitigate bottlenecks.

**VICE-CHAIR ALSPAUGH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SITE LOCATION FOR THE TEMPORARY OFF LEASH AREA AT GRAYHAWK COMMUNITY PARK. COMMISSIONER KOCZKA SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).**

## **7. PROPOSED BOND PROJECT UPDATE**

**Bill Murphy, Community Services Managing Director, will provide Commission with information update on draft bond projects currently being considered.**

Mr. Murphy noted that in 1999, a voter-approved bond election authorized \$145 million to library and park improvements as part of the overall \$358 million for Bond 2000. Currently, the City has \$58 million of the bond remaining, and this is expected to last through June of 2011. The City is in the process of discussing a list of new bond projects. Community Services prepared suggestions for the new bond, taking into account projects that address safety issues, desirability, need, State or Federal mandates, master plan elements, matching funds, sustainability, and revenue generation. He presented a prioritized list of projects based on the criteria. The Budget Review Commission intends to discuss the list on October 22. The City's goal is to finalize the ballot language by mid-July for the November 2010 ballot.

Commissioner Faramelli said replacing the ball field lighting system should be a high priority. Most of the complaints the Commission receives are about lighting. Mr. Murphy said projects that are not included in the bond would be considered in the CIP process. The list will undergo a great deal of scrutiny, including input from the public, and will likely change a great deal. A Commission recommendation will not be required before October 22 meeting.

Chair Frost requested that the Commission be granted more time to review the material. The Commission has long been interested in a bond issue, because there are so many needs. It will be incumbent on the Commission to help motivate citizens to become involved in getting the vote out. In order to engage citizen interest in a bond, it will be important to spread the bond projects throughout the community. In response to an inquiry from Vice-Chair Alspaugh, Mr. Murphy said the project list includes infrastructure repairs to address outstanding issues.

## **8. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM**

**Sandy Hlebaen, Landscape Contract Coordinator, and Jeff Fritsch, Maintenance Worker III, will provide an update on the multi-department Emergency Response Program, which is responsible for after hours emergency calls within all City of Scottsdale streets.**

Ms. Hlebaen provided an update on the City's Emergency Response Program, which has been in existence for 21 years. Seven of its fifteen employees are part of the Parks staff, while the remaining eight are part of Public Works. The team performs a variety of tasks such as storm response, road closures, flood control, debris removal, filling potholes, and barricade placement. Mr. Fritsch added that the team works from 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. Most of the work happens during the night to clear the roads in time for the next day's traffic. The team responded to 126 emergency calls from January to August, 58 of which were for fallen trees. There were two major storm events. Typically, emergency calls go into the police dispatch, who then calls Public Works. Citizens may also send requests through the City's website. Commissioner King complimented the team for quickly responding to problems.

**9. CIVIC CENTER MALL**

**Eric Ibsen, Maintenance Worker III, and David Pratt, Irrigation Systems Coordinator, will provide update on Civic Center Mall.**

Mr. Ibsen provided an update on Civic Center Mall maintenance. The mall hosts 130 outdoor events each year. Total even attendance is over 140,000. Eight full-time employees staff the Civic Center Mall, including a new irrigation technician. The team provides coverage seven days a week, and has an operating budget of just over \$500,000. In addition to the Civic Center Complex, the team is responsible for outlying areas such as Human Resources, the Neighborhood Center, and three parks. This summer, 20,000 square feet of sod was replaced throughout the mall. Irrigation valve boxes were leveled for safety, and several irrigation zones were redesigned to provide better coverage.

Mr. Ibsen reported on the installation of new ADA access from the parking structure into the Pepperwood area. A new Veterans Memorial sculpture is being constructed and will be dedicated on November 11. The sculpture plinth has been poured, and the irrigation is being designed around it. A new transfer site for prisoners is being built north of the Court Police Department building off of 75<sup>th</sup> Street. The Sister Cities sign will be dedicated on October 8, and the landscape around it has been freshened up. Installation has begun on 3,300 one-gallon plants as part of the Mall re-flowering project. In November, the City will install new hanging baskets for flowers.

Commissioner Faramelli said out of town visitors are highly complimentary of the Mall's appearance. Vice-Chair Alspaugh agreed, and added that the autumn turnaround time happens very quickly, and with little disruption.

**10. FY 2010/2011 FEES AND CHARGES OVERVIEW**

**Bryan Bundy, Sr. Budget Analyst, will provide overview of annual fee review process and timeline.**

Mr. Bundy presented an overview of the City's annual rates and fees review process. Beginning this year, the process will switch from a biannual to annual one. The process began in September with the formation of two teams. The Fees and Charges Committee consists of nine members from each department of Community Services. This committee reviews the fees using benchmarking, a cost-recovery analysis, and aims for consistency, and simplicity. Another team, consisting of Bill Murphy, Jan Cameron, Rita Hamilton, Bryan Bundy and Paul Ludwig, addresses policy level decisions associated with the fees and charges. The Commission will have an opportunity to provide feedback in November. Final recommendations are expected by mid-December. The rates and fees will be presented to the Budget Review Commission in the spring as part of the division review process. This will allow Staff to correlate revenues and expenditures much more closely.

Chair Frost inquired whether a Commissioner would be invited to sit on the committee again this year. Mr. Bundy said Commissioner input would be welcome, but cautioned that they might find the weekly meeting schedule to be burdensome.

**11. VIRGINIA GRAHAM-BAKER ACT COMPLIANCE EFFORTS**

**Ken Shoup, Aquatic Maintenance Coordinator, will provide aquatic facilities improvement project update regarding VGBA compliance.**

Mr. Shoup said the VGBA was Federally un-funded legislation intended to prevent suction entrapment in pool and small main drain grates. All of the City's main drains are now compliant with this act. The City hired an aquatic facility design engineering company to assess the system. A licensed pool professional did the installation work. It was impossible for all pools to be compliant within the guiding timeline, because manufacturers had not produced some required parts prior to early summer. In a two-week period at the beginning of summer, the seven pools rated high risk were drained, and the grates installed. Cactus Pool's drains were installed in August, as they were a much lower risk. The swimming programs were only slightly disrupted.

Commissioner Koczka commended staff on the schedule, which had very little negative impact on the public. He inquired about the cost of the upgrade. Mr. Shoup responded that the initial assessment was \$7,000. The purchase and installation of all the grates was \$78,000.

**12. MCCORMICK-STILLMAN PROJECT AND EVENT UPDATE**

**Bob McNair, Sr. Recreation Coordinator at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park will provide an update of park projects and events, including Railfair, Veterans' Day, and Holiday Lights.**

Mr. McNair provided an update on the Railroad Park. Last fiscal year, the Park took in \$1.1 million, which was a record. The Park had 28 days of events last year, including 20,000 people who attended the concert series. The Railfair will be held on October 10 and 11. The Mayor will be on hand on Saturday to recognize the inclusion of the Roald Amundsen Pullman car on the Registry of Historic Places. The Veterans Day celebration will recognize the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Merci Train's relocation to the Park. The Holiday Lights celebration has received a \$2,500 donation from the Scottsdale Charros.

The hobby store that has long been a part of the park decided to close their operation, leaving the Peoria station empty. The Gabe Brooks Railroad Museum is now open. It is free for children under 13. Two cabooses were relocated to serve as the entrance to the park. The landscaping around them was done concurrently with the Indian Bend Road project. The Park also has a new fence to protect children from the anticipated increased roadway traffic. A new storage building designed to house the live steamers will open on October 12. The old building will be torn down to make room for the new model railroad building. Construction on this project should begin in January.

**13. COMMISSIONER REPORT**

**The commissioners will give updates on events and activities they have attended since the last commission meeting.**

Commissioner King encouraged citizens to provide input on the City's General Plan questionnaire, which has several questions related to parks and recreation. Vice Chair Alspaugh said the recent tour of Granite Mountain facility was very informative. Chair Frost reported on his tours of the art classes at El Dorado, and the new features at Chaparral and Club SAR. He raised an issue about contract employee compensation.

Chair Frost noted that a community center was part of the original plan for Chaparral Park, but at the time, residents complained that the new building would block their view of the road. He proposed taking a closer look at the current need there.

**14. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))**

**Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions. This includes, but is not limited to, updates on programming, special events, calendars, and upcoming meetings.**

Ms. Cameron reported that the Arizona Fall League's opening night would be October 13 at Scottsdale Stadium. The Fall Festival will be on October 31.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.

Meets established criteria,  
Janice M. Cameron  
Director, Parks and Recreation